



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE agents arrest 3 illegal alien workers in Gulfport ***-Homeland Security remains vigilant protecting nation's critical infrastructure-***

GULFPORT, MS— Three illegal aliens were arrested Tuesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents for using fraudulent documents and making false statements to gain employment at the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport.

The announcement was made by Michael A. Holt, Special Agent-in-Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New Orleans and United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi Dunn Lampton.

The men, all Mexican nationals, were identified as Jose Miranda-Guerrero, 20, Nelson Solis-Hernandez, 18, and Marcelo Perez-Martinez, 24. They worked for an airport sub-contractor and were applying for training at the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport in an effort to receive airport security identification badges. Airport personnel contact ICE special agents to examine the document presented by the aliens. Subsequent analysis by ICE revealed that the documents were fraudulent.

All of the men were arrested and transported to the Harrison County Detention Center.

Critical infrastructure facilities such as airports, shipyards, defense installations and bio-agriculture industries are a primary law enforcement priority for ICE.

"This was an important law enforcement action based upon a strategic plan," said Holt. "Protecting the integrity of our nation's critical infrastructure in Mississippi is a crucial part of ICE's continuing enforcement strategy. When individuals use fraudulent documents to get jobs, they hide their true identity and history. We need to know who is working in our critical infrastructure sites."

"Because national security is our absolute number-one priority, it's imperative that we operate seamlessly and in partnership to use all the resources at our disposal and to make absolutely sure that

the industries that provide for our defense and commerce are not vulnerable to, or threatened by individuals who operate under fraudulent identities,” said Lampton.

All men have been charged with possessing counterfeit documents in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. 1546(a). Assistant United States Attorney Gaines Cleveland will handle the prosecution of the cases.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities